

## EMERGENCY 911 SERVICES NOW PART OF HOMELAND SECURITY

The Office of the 911 Coordinator, which is charged with administering funds for the purpose of implementing wireless emergency 911 services through out Kentucky, was recently administratively attached to the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. The move illustrates the Fletcher/Pence Administration's commitment to providing 911 services to every Kentuckian.

Additionally, the Office of the 911 Coordinator is undertaking community outreach and educational programs regarding 911 services. Specifically, a website and curriculum for elementary school-aged children is in the works. It aims to teach kids about emergencies, shows them how to dial 911 on different types of phones, and teaches them how to communicate with the operator.

*These resources will be available in the coming months, but for more information on the Office of the 911 Coordinator, please visit [www.cmrsboard.ky.gov](http://www.cmrsboard.ky.gov).*

## FIND HOMELAND SECURITY TRAINING EASIER AT NEW WEBPAGE

In an effort to help First Responders identify needed training more efficiently, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security recently launched a website to aid in these efforts. From this site, First Responders can find information and sign up for training opportunities from various organizations throughout the country.

*For more information, please visit [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov/firstresponders/training](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov/firstresponders/training).*

## TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

Our goal is to coordinate and collaborate with you, our preparedness partners. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

## NEWSLETTER COMMENTS BY (RET.) MAJ. ALECIA WEBB-EDGINGTON DIRECTOR, KENTUCKY OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY



(Ret.) Major Alecia Webb-Edgington

Photo courtesy of Kirk Schlie

As a law enforcement veteran who has spent an entire career working to improve public safety, I can say without hesitation that my recent appointment to this post by Governor Fletcher is truly an honor. The journey, from my days with the Edmonson County Sheriff's Department to my 16-year career with the State Police, has been a great one, and I look forward to serving you as the director of this important office.

There are a number of things I want to accomplish as the head of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security. I want to see interoperability completed for both voice and data throughout the state. I want to establish an Intelligence Fusion Center that will enhance the abilities of first responders. And I want this office to continue to provide our local and state agencies with the resources they need to do their jobs effectively.

All of this cannot be accomplished without strong partnerships with folks throughout Kentucky and beyond. As we strive to meet our goals, I look forward to working with many of you to ensure Kentucky's communities, first responders and families are ready and prepared.

## ANSWERING THE CALL publication staff

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Emergency 911 Services

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**Kentucky**  
UNBROKEN SPIRIT

Ernie Fletcher  
Governor

Steve Pence  
Lieutenant Governor



# ANSWERING THE CALL

PREPARING KENTUCKY'S COMMUNITIES • FIRST RESPONDERS • FAMILIES

"The urgency of our nation's security is the calling of our times" - President George W. Bush

## SCHOOL SAFETY a priority in Kentucky

Our nation has recently experienced a number of tragic school shootings that left many with unanswered questions and concerns about the safety of Kentucky's schoolchildren. That is why the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security recently hosted a two-day School/Student Threat Assessment Workshop for 450 Kentucky educators, law enforcement personnel and child-serving agency members.



Federal, state and local officials are working to ensure Kentucky's classrooms are safe.

The workshop, which was made possible through a partnership with the U.S. Secret Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Kentucky Center for School Safety, U.S. Department of Education and the United States Attorneys from both the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky, provided instruction and networking opportunities to the participants that will serve to make Kentucky's schools safer.

"The Secret Service and Department of Education have looked at high profile school shooting and identified common denominators," said John Akers, Executive Director of the Kentucky Center for School Safety. "Some of those include bullied students, students who keep quiet and are without a connection with the school or adults. They are unconnected to school programs and possibly would seek retribution. The workshops go into detail teaching warning signs and indicators so that those working with students daily can see signs of possibly violent students or actions."

Secret Service Special Agent James Cobb added, "I believe the presentation by our National Threat Assessment Center was well received and provided not only valuable information, but also an opportunity for community stakeholders to network with other individuals in law enforcement, education, community health and other persons involved in the protection of our most critical asset - our children."

*For more information about the Safe School Initiative, please visit [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov/families](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov/families).*

## PREPARING COMMUNITIES

# NEW TECHNOLOGY CREATING A SAFER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM THROUGHOUT THE STATE

The Kentucky Office of Homeland Security has partnered with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement to strengthen security on Kentucky's roadways.

Each day, thousands of semi-trucks roll through Kentucky carrying freight to destinations throughout the nation. They travel interstate highways that cross over one-third of the state's counties, and they carry in them a wide array of goods and other commodities. Because of location and a number of other factors, Kentucky's interstate transportation system is thriving, making the security of Kentucky's highways a critical issue.

Governor Ernie Fletcher and U.S. Congressman Hal Rogers unveiled the new technology at the Laurel County northbound weigh station. The system, called Integrated Safety and Security Enforcement System (ISSES), includes a radiation detection system, a license plate reader, an infrared brake monitoring system, an integrated user interface and a chemical detection unit. In addition to detecting radioactive materials, the machines can also identify illegal narcotics that are being smuggled through the interstate system.

"As part of our continued effort to provide a safe and reliable transportation system that will strengthen our state's security and economy, I'm pleased to dedicate this improved, highly-advanced weigh station," said Governor Fletcher. "Our Kentucky Vehicle Enforcement inspectors and officers combined with this new technology will help keep our roads safe and our commerce moving."



Photos courtesy of the Office of Creative Services

New technology is working to keep Kentucky's communities and roadways safe.

## PREPARING FIRST RESPONDERS

# MAJOR INTEROPERABILITY PROJECT WORKING TO CONNECT KENTUCKY'S FIRST RESPONDERS



Photo courtesy of Jacinta Manning

First responders across Kentucky are contributing valuable input towards developing a statewide interoperable communications plan

Kentucky was recently selected by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security as one of only two states to take part in a pilot project which will provide a statewide strategy to implement voice interoperability throughout the commonwealth. The project, which is expected to save the state millions of dollars, is being conducted by SAFECOM, which is managed by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Office for Interoperability and Compatibility (OIC).

SAFECOM, a communications program of OIC, provides guidance and assistance for local, tribal, state, and federal public safety agencies working to improve public safety response through more effective and efficient interoperable wireless communications.

SAFECOM representatives are currently meeting with local officials throughout the state to gather information and establish key relationships. These meetings will allow the group to create a project plan that will develop a statewide communications interoperability strategic plan.

"This pilot will be driven by the practitioner community - the men and women who use communications equipment on a daily basis. They underscore SAFECOM's commitment to improving public safety communications by putting users in the lead," said Dr. David Boyd, Director of the OIC.

For more information about SAFECOM, please visit [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov) or [www.safecomprogram.gov](http://www.safecomprogram.gov).

**"If our best solution to interoperability during an incident is running on foot to talk to each other - radios in hand - we've got to do better, for everyone's sake."**

- Paducah Area SAFECOM Focus Group Participant

## PREPARING FAMILIES

# CITIZEN PREPAREDNESS HIGHLIGHTED IN UPCOMING PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Numerous natural disasters and local emergencies throughout the country have highlighted the importance of individual and family preparedness. In many instances during an emergency, first responders may not be able to reach everyone immediately, making preparedness a priority.

Beginning in March, the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security will be reaching out with this message of family preparedness to all Kentuckians to ensure they have an emergency kit and a plan.

The campaign will deliver the message through radio spots, local advertising, informational brochures and public appearances by state and local officials. The goal of the campaign is to create a greater awareness of the importance of individual and family preparedness in our daily lives.

"It can't be all up to government," said Dr. Earl Motzer, Chairman of Kentucky's Citizen Corps Council. "The only way to truly be ready and prepared is through individual action. That is what we are trying to facilitate."

For more information on individual and family preparedness, please visit:  
[www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov)  
[www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)  
[www.redcross.org/preparedness](http://www.redcross.org/preparedness)

## PREPARE YOUR FAMILY!

Sign Up For Citizen Corps Training:

- [www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov](http://www.homelandsecurity.ky.gov)
- [www.citizencorps.gov](http://www.citizencorps.gov)



The upcoming public awareness campaign will work to ensure all Kentuckians understand the importance of making a kit and having a plan.